

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/759,414	LI, ZHE	
	Examiner Thomas H. Stevens	Art Unit 2123	

-- **The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 10/27/05.
 2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
 3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
- Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.
4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-17 were previously examined.
2. Claims 18-20 were added.
3. Claims 1-20 were examined.

Section I: Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-20 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

While Wan et al., "VHdbx: an X Window System Based High-Level Debugger for the VHDL Simulated Environment" a method for debugging a circuit design a second set of at least one correction probe, and a third set of at least zero restriction probe, comprising the steps of: obtaining said circuit design, said first set of at least one candidate branch, said second set of at least one correction probe, and said third set of at least zero restriction probe, whereby the existence of some functional mistake in the circuit design is clearly shown with definite boundaries; (claims 1). This reference fails to teach a first set of at least one candidate branch including:

(claim 1) building a representation of the relationships among objects including said circuit design, said first set of at least one candidate branch, said second set of at least one correction probe, and said third set of at least zero restriction probe; and identifying combinations of behaviors at member of said first set of at least one candidate branch to make said circuit design satisfy the expedition expressed in said second set of at least one correction probe and said third set of at least zero restriction probe, whereby more accurate information on the location of the functional mistake is derived"

While Wan et al. discloses a method for debugging a circuit design, including: a first set of at least one candidate branch, fails to teach, in combination with, the remaining elements and features of the claimed invention. It is for these reasons that the applicant's invention defines over the prior art of record.

Examiner's Amendment

6. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Zhe Li, on, Tuesday January 3, 2006 and Tuesday January 10, 2006.

7. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .
Claim 1, line 14, the phrase "more accurate" has been changed to -- the --.
Claim 2, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .
Claim 3, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .
Claim 4, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .
Claim 5, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .
Claim 6, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .
Claim 6, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .
Claim 7, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .
Claim 8, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .

Claim 9, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .

Claim 10, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .

Claim 11, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .

Claim 12, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .

Claim 13, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .

Claim 14, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .

Claim 15, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .

Claim 16, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .

Claim 17, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .

Claim 18, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .

Claim 18, lines 3-4, the phrase ", whereby it is convenient to perform the steps with the computers" has been deleted.

Claim 19, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .

Claim 19, lines 4-5, the phrase ", whereby it is convenient to perform the steps with the computers" has been deleted.

Claim 20, the term "A method" has been changed to -- A computer-implemented method -- .

Claim 20, line 5, the phrase ", whereby it is convenient to perform the steps with the computers" has been deleted.

Specification, pg.16, line 9, the word "is" has been replaced with -- are --.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Section II: Response to Applicant's Arguments (2nd Office Action)

132/101 Rejections

8. Applicant is thanked for addressing these issues. The rejections are withdrawn.

Correspondence Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Tom Stevens whose telephone number is 571-272-3715, Monday-Friday (8:00 am- 4:30 pm EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, please contact examiner's supervisor Mr. Leo Picard ((571) 272-3749). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Answers to questions regarding access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) (toll-free (866-217-9197)).

January 4, 2006

TS


Paul D. Rodriguez /nfo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2125